

SHB 2973 - S AMD 306

By Senators McAuliffe, Schmidt

ADOPTED 03/01/2006

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that Washington's
4 performance-based education system should seek to provide fundamental
5 academic knowledge and skills for all students, and to provide the
6 opportunity for students to acquire knowledge and skills likely to
7 contribute to their own economic well-being and that of their families
8 and communities.

9 (2) The legislature recognizes that career and technical options
10 are available for students.

11 (3) High schools or school districts should take advantage of their
12 opportunity to offer course credits, including credits toward
13 graduation requirements, for knowledge and skills in fundamental
14 academic content areas that students gain in career and technical
15 education courses.

16 (4) Therefore the legislature intends to create a rigorous and high
17 quality career and technical high school alternative assessment that
18 assures students meet state standards, and also reflects nationally
19 recognized standards for the knowledge and skills needed to pursue
20 employment and careers in technical fields.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 (1) Each high school or school district board of directors shall
24 adopt course equivalencies for career and technical high school courses
25 offered to students at the high school. A career and technical course
26 equivalency may be for whole or partial credit. Each school district
27 board of directors shall develop a course equivalency approval
28 procedure.

1 (2) Career and technical courses determined to be equivalent to
2 academic core courses, in full or in part, by the high school or school
3 district shall be accepted as meeting core requirements, including
4 graduation requirements, if the courses are recorded on the student's
5 transcript using the equivalent academic high school department
6 designation and title. Full or partial credit shall be recorded as
7 appropriate.

8 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2005 c 205 s 3 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
11 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except those
12 equivalencies established by local high schools or school districts
13 under section 2 of this act.

14 (a) Any course in Washington state history and government used to
15 fulfill high school graduation requirements shall consider including
16 information on the culture, history, and government of the American
17 Indian peoples who were the first inhabitants of the state.

18 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW
19 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements
20 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high
21 school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

22 (c) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's
23 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan
24 shall remain at the local level.

25 (2) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board of
26 education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation
27 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the
28 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the
29 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board. The
30 state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements for students
31 enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career and technical
32 education programs, particularly those programs that lead to a
33 certificate or credential that is state or nationally recognized. The
34 purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students enrolled in these
35 programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a certificate of academic
36 achievement, complete the program and earn the program's certificate or
37 credential, and complete other state and local graduation requirements.

1 The board shall reports its findings and recommendations for additional
2 flexibility in graduation requirements, if necessary, to the
3 legislature by December 1, 2007.

4 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages other
5 than English established by the state board of education or a local
6 school district, or both, for purposes of high school graduation,
7 students who receive instruction in American sign language or one or
8 more American Indian languages shall be considered to have satisfied
9 the state or local school district graduation requirement for
10 instruction in one or more languages other than English.

11 (4) If requested by the student and his or her family, a student
12 who has completed high school courses before attending high school
13 shall be given high school credit which shall be applied to fulfilling
14 high school graduation requirements if:

15 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the academic
16 level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth
17 grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing
18 the same course requirements and examinations as the high school
19 students enrolled in the class; or

20 (b) The academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for
21 seventh and eighth grade classes and the course would qualify for high
22 school credit, because the course is similar or equivalent to a course
23 offered at a high school in the district as determined by the school
24 district board of directors.

25 (5) Students who have taken and successfully completed high school
26 courses under the circumstances in subsection (4) of this section shall
27 not be required to take an additional competency examination or perform
28 any other additional assignment to receive credit.

29 (6) At the college or university level, five quarter or three
30 semester hours equals one high school credit.

31 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.230.100 and 1991 c 116 s 8 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
34 34.05 RCW, to implement the course requirements set forth in RCW
35 28A.230.090. The rules shall include, as the state board deems
36 necessary, granting equivalencies for and temporary exemptions from the
37 course requirements in RCW 28A.230.090 and special alterations of the

1 course requirements in RCW 28A.230.090. In developing such rules the
2 state board shall recognize the relevance of vocational and applied
3 courses and allow such courses to fulfill in whole or in part the
4 courses required for graduation in RCW 28A.230.090, as determined by
5 the high school or school district in accordance with section 2 of this
6 act. The rules may include provisions for competency testing in lieu
7 of such courses required for graduation in RCW 28A.230.090 or
8 demonstration of specific skill proficiency or understanding of
9 concepts through work or experience.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.04 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop an
13 objective alternative assessment for career and technical education
14 programs. The objective alternative assessment shall be comparable in
15 rigor to the skills and knowledge that the student must demonstrate on
16 the Washington assessment of student learning.

17 (2) The alternative assessment shall include an evaluation of a
18 collection of work samples prepared and submitted by an applicant who
19 is enrolled in a career and technical education program. The
20 superintendent of public instruction shall develop guidelines for the
21 collection of work samples that evidences that the collection:

22 (a) Is relevant to the student's particular career and technical
23 program;

24 (b) Focuses on the application of academic knowledge and skills
25 within the program;

26 (c) Includes completed activities or projects where demonstration
27 of academic knowledge is inferred; and

28 (d) Is related to the essential academic learning requirements and
29 state standards that students must meet to earn a certificate of
30 academic achievement or certificate of individual achievement, but also
31 represents the knowledge and skills that successful individuals in the
32 career and technical field of the approved program are expected to
33 possess.

34 (3) In developing the work samples for subsection (2) of this
35 section, the superintendent shall consult with community and technical
36 colleges, employers, the work force training and education coordinating
37 board, apprenticeship programs, and other regional and national experts

1 in career and technical education to create an appropriate collection
2 of work samples and other evidence of a career and technical student's
3 knowledge and skills on the state academic standards."

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4 On page 1, line 3 of the title, after "areas;" strike the remainder
5 of the title and insert "amending RCW 28A.230.090 and 28A.230.100;
6 adding a new section to chapter 28A.230 RCW; adding a new section to
7 chapter 28C.04 RCW; and creating a new section."

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